

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEA-01 AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /148 W

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R 141647Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 226

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA AND LOS

1. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENTATION BY THE AMBASSADOR OF A COPY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MONTREAL SPEECH TO FOMIN LIEVANO (SEPTTEL) A COPY DELIVERED ON AUG 13 TO DR JOAQUIN FONSECA, UNDER SEC FOR INTL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE OCCASION PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF LOS MATTERS WHICH HIGHLIGHTED SOME COLOMBIAN PERCEPTIONS.

2. FONSECA, WHO IS HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND IS A REGULAR MEMBER OF COLOMBIAN LOS DELEGATIONS, EXHIBITED A HIGH DEGREE OF OPTIMISM REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF THE COMING N.Y. LOS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT IF NO MAJOR ROADBLOCKS ARE ENCOUNTERED, AN AGREEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT IN N.Y. AND IN A FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN CARACAS POSSIBLY IN MID OR LATE

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1976. HE THOUGHT THAT WITH LUCK THE FORMAL SIGNING COULD BE

CARRIED OUT IN EARLY 1977. FONSECA EMPHASIZED THAT THE THREE COMMITTEE AND SINGLE TEXT APPROACH HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS SO FAR AND HAS HELPED TO AVOID ENDLESS DEBATE ON POSSIBLY OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PROPOSALS. HE PROPOSED THAT AS A NEXT STEP IN N.Y., SPECIFIC ARTICLES WITH ALREADY WIDE ACCEPTANCE SHOULD BE PUT TO A FINAL VOTE. THE FORMAL APPROVAL OF THESE "EASY" ARTICLES, ACCORDING TO FONSECA, WOULD PROVIDE REAL FORWARD MOVEMENT AND WOULD CONSTRUCT THE NECESSARY PSYCHOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR CARRYING LOS TO A RAPID SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

3. FONSECA POINTED OUT THAT COLOMBIA IS ALREADY IN AGREEMENT WITH 80 PERCENT OF THE SINGLE TEXT OF COMMITTEE ONE. HE SAID THAT GERMAN ZEA, CHIEF COLOMBIAN LOS COORDINATOR, HAS DIFFICULTY WITH SOME OF THE ARTICLES IN THE TEXTS OF COMMITTEES TWO AND THREE, BUT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NO DOUBT ELIMINATE ANY SERIOUS RESERVATIONS. FONSECA SAID THAT COLOMBIA SUPPORTED "100 PERCENT" THE U.S. POSITION ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND, WHILE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE U.S. POSITION ON THE STRAITS ISSUE, WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT COLOMBIA FAVORED ALLOWING SEABED DEVELOPMENT BY PRIVATE FIRMS INSTEAD OF REQUIRING GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED OPERATIONS AS PROPOSED BY THE USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE 12 MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS AND 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT, HE SPOKE OF THE MATTER AS IF IT WERE A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, FONSECA BROADLY HINTED THAT, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE EXPECTED SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF LOS, COLOMBIA AND OTHER NATIONS WOULD CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGULATING THE USE OF THE "WATER COLUMN" BEYOND THE PROSPECTIVE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONES.

4. FONSECA TOLD EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH HINTED THAT AMBASSADOR STEVENSON WILL RESIGN AS CHIEF U.S. NEGOTIATOR FOR LOS. FONSECA EXPRESSED HIS DISPLEASURE AT THE PROSPECT AND SAID THAT COLOMBIA WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT HE REMAIN. HE SAID THAT THE CONTINUITY WOULD BE VALUABLE AND, ALTHOUGH STEVENSON IS A "HARD NEGOTIATOR", HIS VIEWS CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE KNOWN AND HE CAN BE TRUSTED.

5. FONSECA SAID THAT GERMAN ZEA WOULD REMAIN AS CHIEF COLOMBIAN LOS COORDINATOR (BOGOTA 7612) AND WOULD LEAD THE GOC DELEGATION IN NY NEXT FEB. HOWEVER, FOR THE EASTERN PACIFIC FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS IN OCTOBER, THE GOC WILL SEND GABRIEL ACEVEDO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES, AND PERHAPS COLONEL LONDONO, CHIEF OF THE FRONTEIRS SECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND AN EXPERT IN SEA LIMITS MATTERS.

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